Maintaining of poultry farms for evasion of income tax

427. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of fraud being committed by some individuals and industrialists by maintaining large poultry farms to take advantage of income-tax rebates, thus virtually using these farms as a cover to convert 'black money' into 'white'; and

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take in the matter so as to check economic offence?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) The profits and gains derived from the business of poultry farming by a person are chargeable to tax subject to a deduction from his gross total income in accordance with the provisions of section 80JJ of the Income Tax Act. Maintenance of large poultry farms and claiming of deduction u/s 80JJ does not as such lead to evasion of income-tax. Whenever any specific instance of fraudulent claim of the said deduction comes to notice, appropriate action under the Income Tax Act is taken.

Licences for steel plant in Goa

428. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned any letter of intent/licence for the setting up of a steel plant in Goa;

(b) if so, what is the name of the company to which permission has been given, alongwith the name of the owner of the company and also the number of applications received in this regard alongwith their names; and

(c) the area of land required for this steel plant and the nature of pollution likely to be caused by the setting up of the steel plant?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Marmagoa Steel Limited, owned by M.G. Poy Raiturcar, was issued a Letter of Intent in 1985. Another application of M/s. Malvika Steel Limited received in 1988 was rejected because the policy at that time did not provide for setting up of new steel manufacturing units.

(c) Land acquired by M/s. Marmagoa Steel Limited is about 11 acres. The pollution caused is primarily air pollution for which they will have to install suitable pollution control arrangements as required by the State Pollution Control Board.

Gold ornaments held in Portuguese Bank

429. SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that gold ornaments of Goans held in portuguese Bank has created more problems for its speedy recovery and for being brought back to India;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what was the outcome of the talks on this issue during our President's visit to that country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Government have been pursuing the matter relating to the return of gold ornaments and other safe custody articles presently held with Banco Nacional IUI tramarino (BNU), Lisbon (Portugal), with the concerned Portuguese authorities through diplomatic channels. During the visit of President of India to Portugal in March, 1990, indications were given that the Portuguese authorities were willing to return the ornaments to India. Accordingly, a team of officers from